**LINKED - *Leveraging Innovation for a Network of Knowledge on Education***

**Task on existing online brokerage platforms**

Analysis by ANSAS (former INDIRE)

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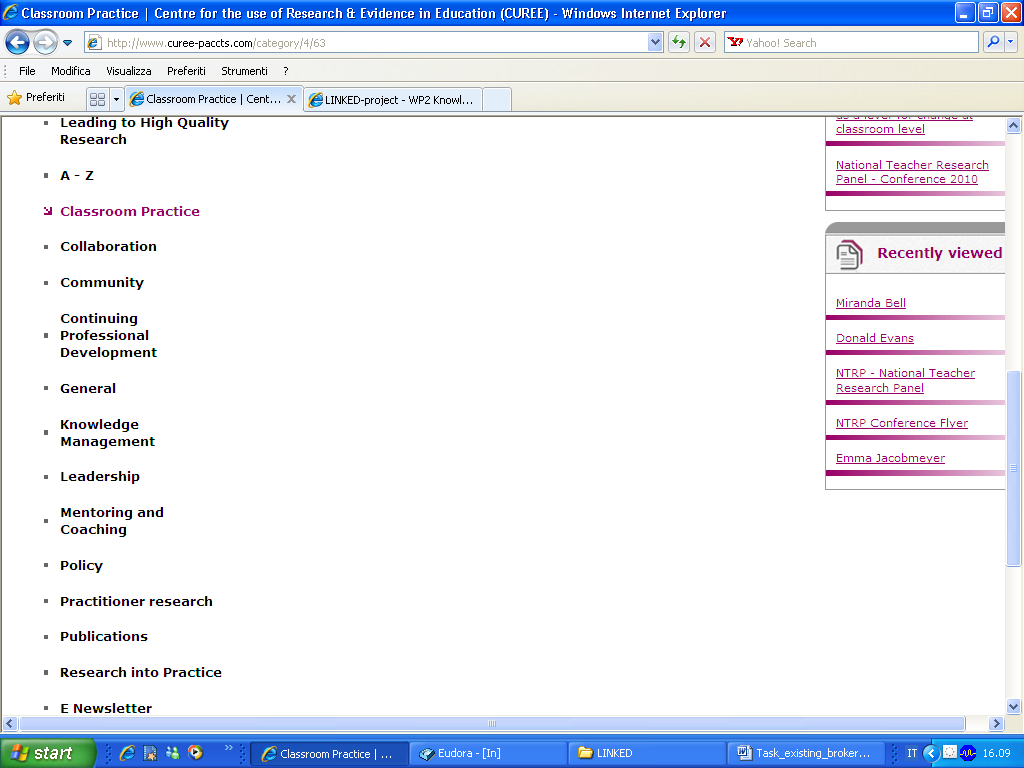
1. **Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education (CUREE)**:

**URL Link:** <http://www.curee-paccts.com>

* What are your impressions of each website in terms of the
* Platform’s usability: the structures of the site is quite clear. The labels are clear, the boxes help to distinguish the different site sections.
* Text on platform : too much text on pages. Not enough use of images, videos, etc.
* Clarity of description of aims and what they offer: it is clear what they offer
* Organization of access to evidence: not well deployed.
* Search options available: only simple search and alphabetical list (not sufficient).
* Contact possibilities: yes, present. However, there are no people names. That’s a bit depersonalizing.
* Links to further information on related websites of interest: yes, present, quite smartly presented.
* a) What is the quality of the written brokerage outputs available (e.g. research reviews): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, format etc. ?

The quality of the material is high: they mainly offer research summaries and consequent detailed information. However, not all is available for unregistered (subscribers who pay?) users. The information is presented with professional graphics and layouts (mainly ppts).

Under “resources” all the following menus are empty:



Length of the papers is fine, even though more in-depth studies/publications should be made available.

b) What is the quality of the audio/visual brokerage outputs available (e.g. podcast interviews, videos): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, structure, appropriateness etc. ?

This kind of information is lacking. Text is predominant.

* a) Which features from these existing brokerage platforms do you think we should use and/or disregard for the LINKED brokerage platform?

We think that giving the information with different levels it is a correct way. For example, first giving “research evidence pills” and then giving the full report is a useful way of presenting data.

b) Please suggest any additional features to be included on the LINKED brokerage platform

Considering the missing or weak points in this portal, we suggest:

* better research facilities;
* full-text infos;
* video/image data

1. **The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Coordinating Centre (EPPI Centre)**:

**URL Link:** <http://www.eppi.ioe.ac.uk>

**Initiator:** Social Science Research Unit at the Institute of Education, University of London.

**Main aims:** To make reliable research findings accessible to all stakeholders by carrying out systematic reviews and developing review methods in social science and public policy.

**Target groups:** Policy makers, practitioners and researchers

**Outputs:** Systematic reviews across a range of topics including: education, health promotion, employment, social care, crime and justice, and review methodology guidelines

* What are your impressions of each website in terms of the
* Platform’s usability: the structure of the site is quite clear. The labels are clear, the menus and labels help to distinguish the different site sections. The map of the site is very useful.
* Text on platform : text is well formatted on pages. However, there is little use of images, videos, etc.
* Clarity of description of aims and what they offer: it is clear what they offer
* Organization of access to evidence: not well deployed.
* Search options available: only alphabetical list and tree maps. Some databases have simple search option. Browsing is their major choice but according to us advanced search would be important.
* Contact possibilities: yes, present. There is the list of the staff and all contact details. OK.
* Links to further information on related websites of interest: yes, present, quite smartly presented.
* a) What is the quality of the written brokerage outputs available (e.g. research reviews): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, format etc. ?

The quality of the material is high: they offer research reviews and research articles, mainly open access.

The format of the documents can be personalized in some cases. The reports, for example, can be viewed in different way according to users’ preferences.

b) What is the quality of the audio/visual brokerage outputs available (e.g. podcast interviews, videos): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, structure, appropriateness etc. ?

This kind of information is lacking. Text is predominant even though it is well formatted.

* a) Which features from these existing brokerage platforms do you think we should use and/or disregard for the LINKED brokerage platform?

We think that the personalization of reports and documents is and added value, that could be used in LINKED as well.

b) Please suggest any additional features to be included on the LINKED brokerage platform

Considering the missing or weak points in this portal, we suggest:

* advanced research facilities;
* video/image data

1. **Danish Clearinghouse for Educational Research**

**URL Link:** <http://www.dpu.dk/site.aspx?p=9882>

**Initiator: Danish School of Education, University of Aarhus**

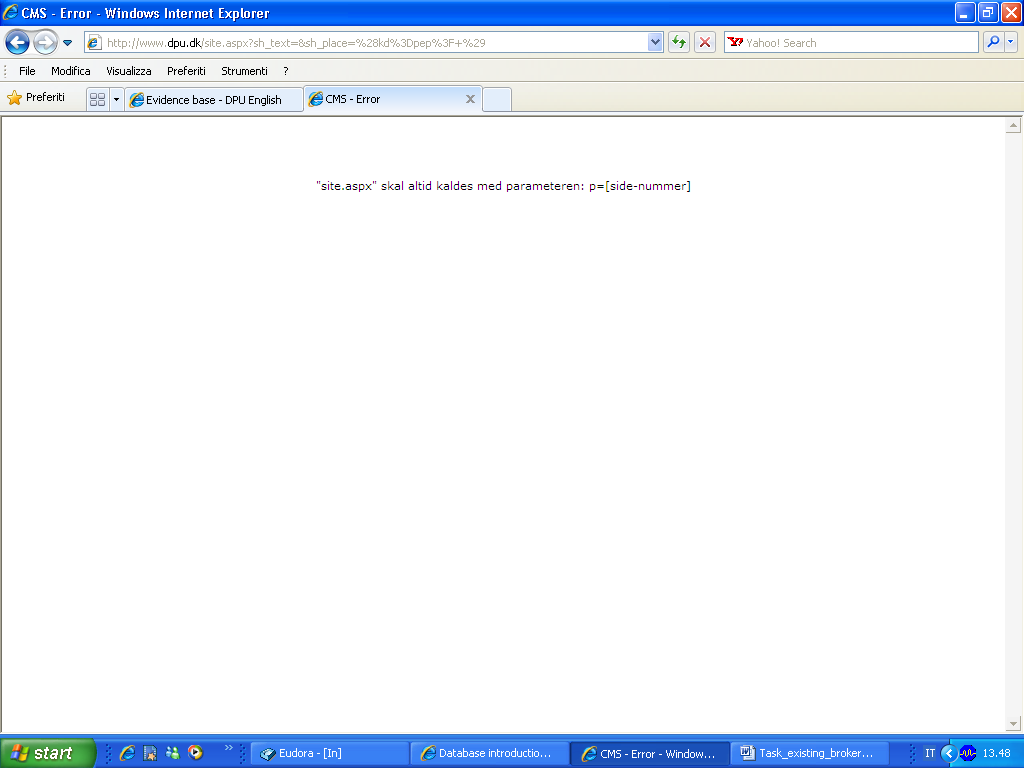
**Main aims:** To provide an overview of the current best knowledge of good educational practice and communicate it to practitioners and policy makers.

**Target groups:** Practitioners and policy makers

**Outputs:** Mainly systematic reviews, but also summaries of international reviews, research mapping and research assessment

* What are your impressions of each website in terms of the
* Platform’s usability: the structure of the site is very basic.
* Text on platform : No text formatting. No use of images, videos, etc.
* Clarity of description of aims and what they offer: it is clear what they offer
* Organization of access to evidence: not well deployed.
* Search options available: only simple search.

Problems in the results page (not understandable):



* Contact possibilities: yes, present; only general contact, though.
* Links to further information on related websites of interest: few ones
* a) What is the quality of the written brokerage outputs available (e.g. research reviews): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, format etc. ?

The retrieval was complicated. However. The quality seems to be good. However, products, reviews etc. are not accessible.

b) What is the quality of the audio/visual brokerage outputs available (e.g. podcast interviews, videos): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, structure, appropriateness etc. ?

This kind of information is lacking. Text is predominant.

* a) Which features from these existing brokerage platforms do you think we should use and/or disregard for the LINKED brokerage platform?

We think that this information display mode is not as good as others and should not be taken into account for the LINKED brokerage platform.

b) Please suggest any additional features to be included on the LINKED brokerage platform

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1. **ERIC Education Resources Information Center**

**URL Link:** <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>

**Initiator:** U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences

**Main aims:** To provide a comprehensive, easy-to-use, searchable, Internet-based bibliographic and full-text database of education research and information to support the use of educational research and information to improve practice in learning, teaching, educational decision-making, and research.

**Target groups: Practitioners, policy makers and researchers**

**Outputs:** Practitioners, policy makers, and researchers

* What are your impressions of each website in terms of the
* Platform’s usability: the structures of the site is simple and well organized.
* Text on platform : Text is well formatted. Little use of images. No videos.
* Clarity of description of aims and what they offer: it is clear what they offer
* Organization of access to evidence: very well deployed.
* Search options available: wonderful search options: simple search, advanced and thesaurus search. In particular, the ERIC thesaurus is very well done and kept updated. Re-indexing is performed.
* Contact possibilities: yes, present; but only general contact.
* Links to further information on related websites of interest: few ones
* a) What is the quality of the written brokerage outputs available (e.g. research reviews): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, format etc. ?

The quality of the retrieved is very high. However, not all articles/papers are in full-text. Length and format is traditionally conceived and the material is meant to be printed out.

b) What is the quality of the audio/visual brokerage outputs available (e.g. podcast interviews, videos): i.e. relevance, accessibility, length, structure, appropriateness etc. ?

This kind of information is lacking. Text is predominant.

* a) Which features from these existing brokerage platforms do you think we should use and/or disregard for the LINKED brokerage platform?

We think that this search options in the brokerage system in very good and performing. The precision of recall is very high thanks to the thesaurus indexing. This could be taken as a reference point for our LINKED brokerage platform. The best way, however, could be indexing with a multilingual thesaurus (hopefully European).

b) Please suggest any additional features to be included on the LINKED brokerage platform

* search options.
* Research summaries;
* Video/image data.